

of the smoke, which hung over the battle field like a pall, that there was an enemy in front of us. The smoke now lifted from our front and there right before us, scarcely two hundred yards away stood Cemetery Heights in awful grandeur." Here we have it upon the best authority that Pickett's division was not fired upon till they arrived in "rushing distance." It is well known that the left of the line was subjected to a severe artillery fire from almost the very start. Many of its regiments suffered greatly before the right had lost a man, by shot or shell, for, however comparatively harmless the fire of artillery may be to soldiers lying down and hugging the ground, it is very destructive when they are upon their feet. In a prize fight the object of each pugilist is to hammer the sore spot—the weak spot. In this assault the left brigade which had done indifferent fighting the first day, now did none at all. The enemy witnessing their conduct naturally concluded that the left was the weak spot and acted vigorously upon that conclusion. Davis' brigade which came next the Virginia brigade which had acted so ingloriously was composed of the 2 and 42 Mississippi, 55 North Carolina and 11 Mississippi. Three of these regiments had fought the first day, had gained a victory but with great loss. The 11th Mississippi was on detached duty that day and though it and its brigade did not go quite as far in the assault as the troops on their right the loss in killed and wounded for this regiment was two hundred and two which was over sixty per cent. Pickett's men had ninety-one killed and wounded to the regiment or about twenty-eight per cent. When all things are considered, their boody fight on the first day, their standing up so long and so manfully this day against so terrific a fire, both from flank and front (as shown by their losses), it will be seen that it is possible that "Truth" may proclaim, that Davis' brigade, though they did not reach the vicinity of the works, are more deserving of the palm than any other command on the field. For it is not known positively that any other brigade lost on that day so large a per centage of killed as they. As it may appear unaccountable that, while one part of the line was suffering so much from artillery, another part hardly received a shot, it will be well to mention that the Federal General Doubleday states in his history that with the exception of one piece all guns in the immediate front of the